

WI-255  
Jay Williams House  
Salisbury  
Private

1886-87

Built in 1886 for attorney Jay Williams and his wife Blanche, this two-story, gable-front frame house differs distinctly from many of the late nineteenth-century houses that define Newtown's historic district. In contrast to the asymmetrical plans and multiple layers of various exterior surfaces characteristic of nearby Queen Anne and picturesque houses of the Victorian age is this quietly symmetrical gable-front facade that recalls a design tradition popular on the lower Eastern Shore during the late eighteenth century and first half of the nineteenth century. Particularly distinctive is the temple or gable-front form that was particularly favored among the merchants in Princess Anne, Snow Hill, Berlin, and the western Wicomico village of Quantico.

The Jay Williams house, however, differs from these earlier structures in decorative details across its street facade as well as more fundamental features inherent in its overall plan. One of the most defining elements is the neoclassical front entrance with Tuscan columns that rise to a broken pediment. The entablature stretches several feet to each side of the entrance in order to incorporate sidelights and pilasters that flank the front door. Unknown to the earlier generation of gable-front houses are the kicked eaves and the twelve-over-one sash windows.

Construction of the Jay Williams house is documented by a short notice in the *Salisbury Advertiser*, which stated on March 3, 1887, "*Jay Williams, Esq. has moved in his new dwelling on William Street just finished.*" The lot was acquired in April 1886 in a transfer from George W. and Sophia E. Hearn for \$250. The low purchase price indicates an unimproved lot. Jay Williams was a prominent attorney in Salisbury during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. He left his real and personal property to his wife, A. Blanche Williams, upon his death in 1933.

## MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: Jay Williams House

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-255

## MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture
2. Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore
3. Chronological/Development Period(s): Industrial-Urban Dominance  
1870-1930
4. Resource Type(s): Single-family dwelling

**Maryland Historical Trust  
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

**MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES**

Survey No. WI-255

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic Jay Williams House

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 201 William Street ☐ not for publication

city, town Salisbury ☐ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Wicomico

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Andy and Paula Hepburn

street & number 201 William Street telephone no.: 410-742-1797

city, town Salisbury state and zip code Maryland 21801

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court Map 107, P. 684  
liber 1026

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 46

city, town Salisbury state Md 21801

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. WI-255

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☒ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Jay Williams house is located at 201 East William Street in the heart of the Newtown Historic District in Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland. The two-story, three-bay frame house faces south with the principal gable roof oriented on a north/south axis.

Documented to 1887, the two-story, three-bay, gable-front frame house is supported on a low brick foundation, and the exterior is clad with plain weatherboard siding. The entire structure follows a rough cruciform shape with the two-story gable front main block, a lateral wing on the west side, and a two-story service wing to the rear. Trimming the corners of the house are narrow pilasters. The medium pitched roof, featuring a kicked eave, is covered with slate.

The south (main) elevation is a symmetrical three-bay facade with a center entrance flanked by twelve-over-one sash windows. The six-panel front door is enhanced by a neo-classical Tuscan columned entrance arch and flanking sidelights. On each side of the door Tuscan columns rise to a classical frieze and broken pediment. The broken pediment arch is executed in a gentle rounded arch rather than a scroll or triangular form. The frieze extends farther to each side to incorporate flat paneled pilasters that enclose long rectangular sidelights. The flanking twelve-over-one sash windows are framed by a wide surround incorporating a slight backband molding. Shutter hardware remains on each window opening, however the shutters have been removed. The second floor is lighted by three twelve-over-one sash windows. The center window located directly over the front door is slightly wider and framed by a crossetted surround. The twelve-over-one sash windows to each side are not in direct alignment with the windows below. The gable-front is enclosed with a classical pediment, and the tympanum is sheathed with plain weatherboards and pierced by a segmental arched lunette. The lunette window is divided into four pie-shaped panes with radiating muntins. The edge of the extended eave is trimmed with bed and crown moldings.

The west side of the main block is partially is dominated by the two-story lateral wing that extends on a perpendicular axis from the main block. Twelve-over-one sash windows light the first and second floors. On the east side a cross gable marks the roof slope. Attached to the front or southeast corner of the main block is a single-story hip roofed enclosed porch supported by Tuscan columns. A rectangular baluster handrail stretches between the posts. Multi-pane glass partitions have been installed between the columns. The porch roof is covered with slate. Lighting the second floor are twelve-over-one sash windows, and a two-story porch is incorporated under the roof slope on the west side.

The interior was not seen

## 8. Significance

Survey No. WI-255

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

### Specific dates

### Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

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Due the well preserved nature of this house, it deserves listing in *Category A*.

<sup>1</sup> *Salisbury Advertiser*, March 3, 1887.

<sup>2</sup> Wicomico County Land Record, FMS 1/244, 23 April 1886.

<sup>3</sup> Wicomico County Will Book, MNN 1/442, Probated 15 March 1933.



Allen W. Barnes  
Dorothy M. Barnes

WI-255  
Jay Williams House  
201 East William Street  
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland  
Chain of title continued

Page 2

IDT 213/122

Carroll E. Bounds  
William Travers, attorneys

to

10/26/1938

The Salisbury National Bank

Whereas By a Public Sale, 9/3/1938, in pursuance  
of the special power and authority vested in them  
under and by virtue of a certain mortgage from A.  
Blanche Williams, 7/15/1933, IDT 181/205

Will Book  
MNN 1/442

Last Will and Testament of Jay Williams

to, wife

Written  
3/18/1918  
Proved  
3/15/1933

A. Blanche Williams

After the payment of all my just debts and funeral  
expenses, I give, devise, and bequeath all my estate  
real and personal unto my wife A. Blanche Williams  
her heirs and assigns forever, in fee simple

FMS 1/244

George W. Hearn  
Sophia E. Hearn

to

4/23/1886

Jay Williams

\$250 Beginning...on the North side of William Street"



Gent's furnishing Goods, &c. No. 47 Main St.  
**BILLIS AND SON**, Wholesale and Retail  
 alers in Groceries, Provisions, Notions, Gilling-  
 ine, Wood and Willow-ware, Fishing Tackle,  
 ton and Manilla Rope, Corn-meal, &c. No. 70  
 in Street.  
**JAYMAN**, Dealer in Groceries, Tobacco,  
 tions and General Merchandise. No. 69 Main  
 set.

#### Editors.

**JEL MALONE**, Editor of the "Salisbury  
 vertisment"  
**BEY** litor and Publisher of the "Eastern  
 orum"

#### Fruit Dealer.

**CATELL**, Dealer in, and Grower of Small  
 uins. Salisbury, Md.

#### Hotel.

**TRACY**, Proprietor of the "Peninsula Ho-  
 l," also of the "Atlantic Hotel," "Ocean City."

sale and Retail Dealer in Groceries, &c.  
 faced Boards, House-framing, Box-boards, Oak  
 Lumber suitable for Vessel Material, Gum, Wal-  
 nut, Oak and Cherry Hubs, Balusters, Newel Posts,  
 Fence Pickets, Post Caps, Flower Vases, Broom  
 Handles, Spinning Wheels, Pumps. Turning of  
 all Kinds and Styles of Wood and Iron a Specialty.  
 Wool carded from July 1st to October 31st. Also  
 Manufacturer of Flour, Meal and Feed Stuff. Wi-  
 comico Falls Mills, No. 2 Mill Street, Salisbury, Md.

#### Mills.

**GEO. W. LEONARD**, Farmer and Proprietor of  
 Saw and Grist Mill. Res. and mill 4 1/2 miles north  
 of Salisbury.  
**JOHN WILLIAMS**, Farmer and Proprietor of  
 Saw and Grist Mill 5 miles north of Salisbury.  
**GEO. H. W. RUARK**, Farmer and Proprietor of  
 "Ruark Mills" 3 miles north of Salisbury. Res.  
 Salisbury.  
**M. A. PARSONS**, Proprietor of S. S. Mill, 2  
 miles west of Salisbury on Wicomico River. Also  
 Proprietor of Marine Railway.

#### Physician.

**Dr. F. M. SLEMONS**, Physician and Surgeon.

# SALISBURY

WICOMICO CO.

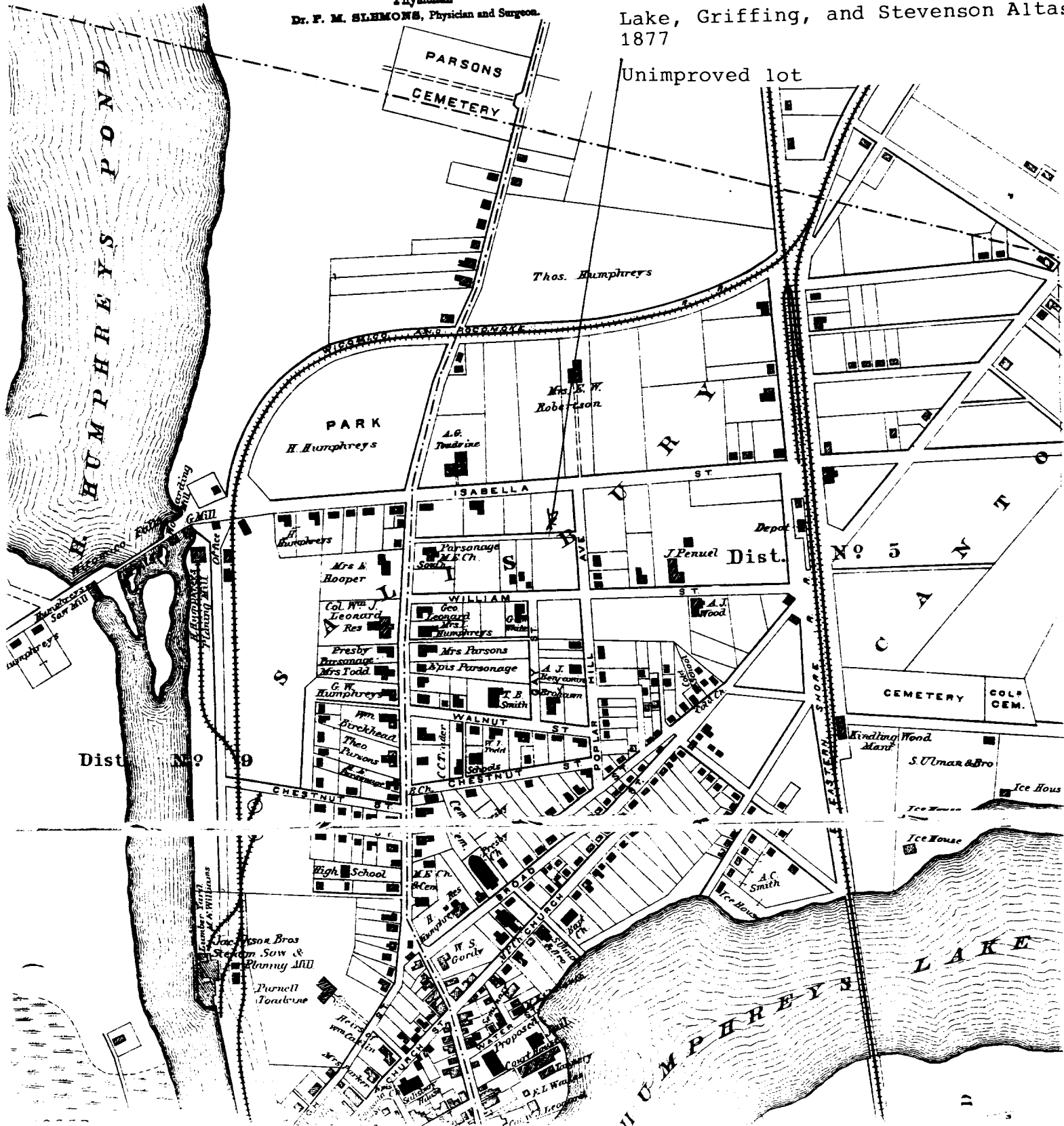
*Dists. Nos 95 & 8*

WI-255

Jay Williams House

Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson Altas  
 1877

Unimproved lot



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

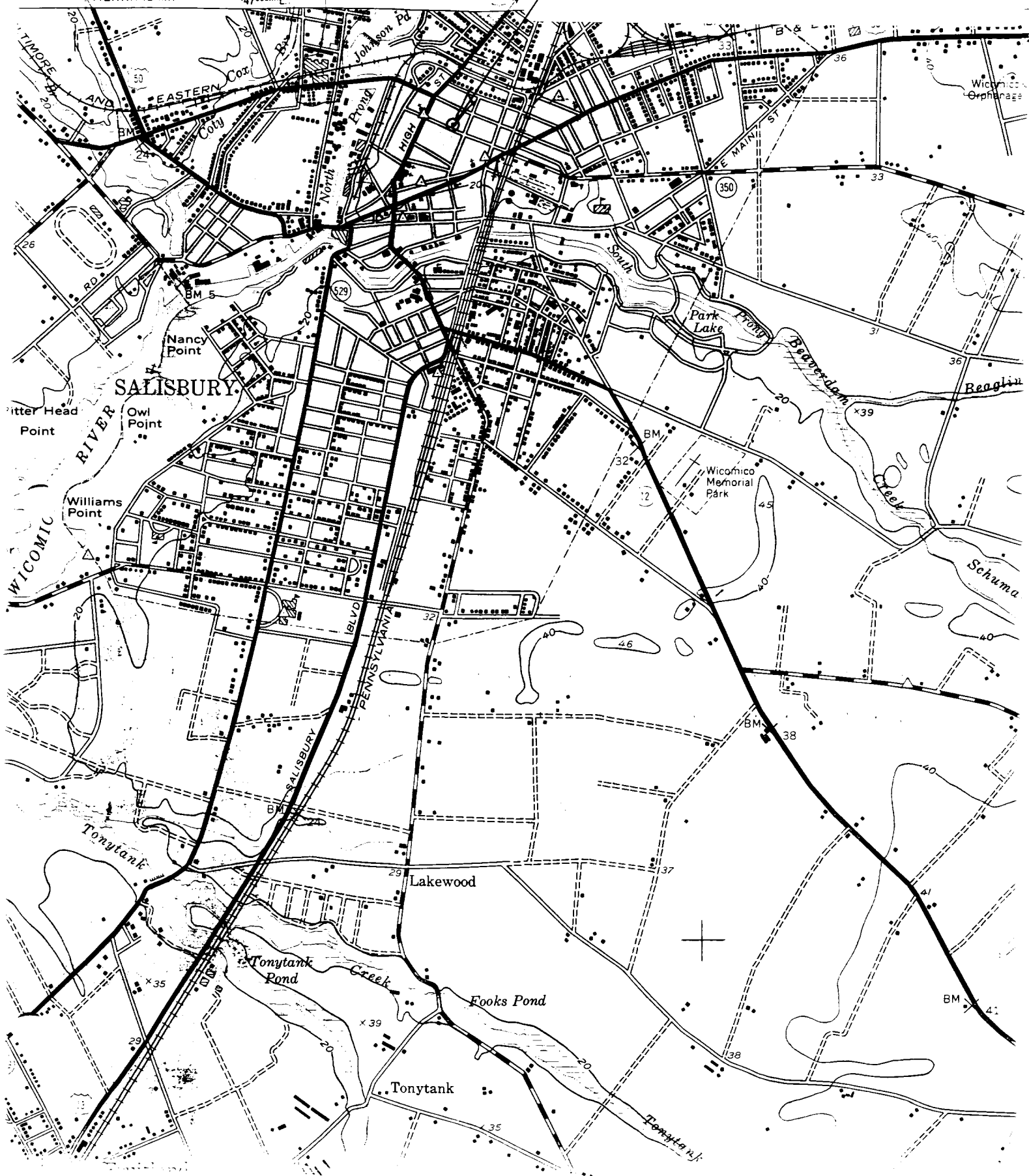
CAMBRIDGE 31 MI.  
VIENNA 15 MI.

447000m E.

WI-255

Jay Williams House

Salisbury, Maryland Quadrangle  
1942





W1-255

Long Williams House

Savisbury, Worcester County, Mass

South elevation

11/97, Paul Toomey, Northampton

Wet. / old 1650s window